

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 8—  
Advisory Council  
Meeting 6:30pm
- Nov. 8—Eagle's  
Field Trip to  
Recycling Center
- Nov. 8—  
Potomac Pizza  
Night
- Nov. 9—Pen-  
guin's Field Trip  
to Recycling  
Center
- Nov. 10—Owl's  
Field Trip to  
Recycling Center
- Nov. 10—  
Scholastic Book  
Orders due
- Nov. 14—Open  
House Tour at  
9:30am
- Nov. 14—Honey  
Baked Ham  
Orders Due
- Nov. 21—Honey  
Baked Ham  
Orders Distrib-  
uted in drop off  
line
- Nov. 20- Thanks-  
giving Feast for  
3's & 4's
- Nov. 21- Staff  
Meeting at  
12:30pm
- Nov. 20 & 21 -  
Thanksgiving  
Service
- Nov. 22-24 - NO  
SCHOOL  
Thanksgiving

# CCUMCP Parent Information

NOVEMBER 2016

## Thanksgiving Pajama Drive

The Thanksgiving season provides us with a wonderful opportunity to teach our children and remind ourselves about the blessings that we enjoy that can be shared with others. This year at Thanksgiving the CCUMCP family will join together to donate new pajamas for area children. This program is nationwide, but serves local communities. This means that every pair of pajamas donated will find its way to a child in our area. We are asking the children to bring those new pajamas or night-

gowns to school by November 17. Each class will bring its dona-



tions to chapel. **To drive the**

**point home, we are asking children to wear their favorite pair of pajamas to school the day that they have chapel (either November 20 or 21).**

Talk to your child about this effort and involve your child in the process. **Make sure to bring in all pajamas and nightgowns by Friday, November 17 if possible.** Thank you so much for your help in this important effort.

## Encouraging Independence

In literature and in discussion among parents who have high school and college students there is a great deal of consternation about how many kids that age in this generation are quite dependent upon their parents. Many aren't able to advocate for themselves with their teachers, navigate public transportation, make a phone call to ask for information, or

apply for a job without assistance from parents. At an age when they should be quite independent many of these kids display a shocking amount of dependence. As you can imagine, this dependence hampers them from moving into adulthood.

How do children become independent? Becoming fully independent occurs

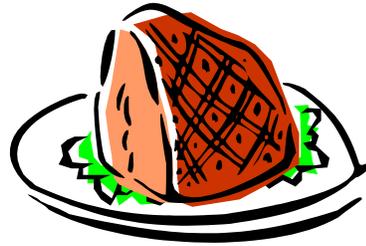
gradually after numerous small attempts and successes at being independent. There are so many opportunities during the whole of childhood to take steps towards independence. These opportunities can begin prior to preschool, but become much more plentiful during the preschool years. There are so many age-appropriate ways of building the confidence and skills that lead

# Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser

The preschool is delighted to offer parents and the larger community the opportunity to order items from Honey Baked Ham for delivery to the preschool on Tuesday, November 21 or to order gift certificates that are deliverable anywhere. The company is able to offer their delicious hams in tandem with turkeys. What a great way to fill in your Thanksgiving dinner or to bring something nice to a fami-

ly gathering. Even if you can't use anything right now, consider buying a gift certificate to give as a hostess gift or use for yourself in upcoming months. Visit <https://>

[honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/Chevy\\_Chase\\_UMC\\_Preschool\\_Scholarship\\_Fund](https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/Chevy_Chase_UMC_Preschool_Scholarship_Fund) to order a gift certificate. A portion of each sale will be returned to the preschool. Please return all order forms to the preschool by Tuesday, November 14.



Thank you!

## Preschool Tours

This year we are offering tours of the preschool monthly for prospective parents. The next couple of dates are November 14, December 6, January 10, and January 18. These are all of the tours offered prior to the January 31st deadline for accepting registration applications.

If you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for a preschool, please let us know. We will have 50 spaces for 2 year olds in the fall—20 for Tuesday-Thursday classes and 30 for Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes as well as 10 spaces in our Hummingbirds class that starts mid-year. In addition, we always have spaces available in our 3 year old and pre-K classes.

## Mastering Cutting with Scissors

As an assistant in a 2 year old class years ago I joked about the amount of cutting that was necessary for my job—I was constantly cutting out letters and shapes for art projects—and how delighted my kindergarten teacher would be to know that I was using what she taught me. While it is true that I perfected my scissor skills in kindergarten, children are now expected to enter kindergarten having mastered the art of cutting. This means that children need to work with scissors throughout their preschool years **beginning at the age of two**. For a nice explanation of why it is important for children to learn to use scissors and the age by age sequence, please go to the following link for an article written by an occupational therapist. See <http://www.gandetherapies.com/PDF%20Files/TheImportanceofTeach->

[ingYourChildHowToUseScissors.pdf](http://ingYourChildHowToUseScissors.pdf)

The best scissors to use are child-safe scissors with the rounded edges. These scissors provide stability for developing hand muscles. Before the lesson begins, outline some rules of safety. Explain that scissors can cut and should be used carefully with an adult's supervision. Instead of outlining what they can't cut exclusively be sure to mention what they can cut. For example, "We never cut other people or animals. We use scissors to cut playdough, paper and fabric."

After the rules have been set forth, begin by showing them their thumb and demonstrating that when they want to cut their thumbs should face the sky. This will help children learn how to orient their hands in the scissors. Demonstrate for them how the thumb goes into one hole and the

next two fingers go into the other hole. Help them open and close their fingers.



As the article referenced above mentions it is easier to have your child begin cutting thicker materials like playdough. Then she should progress to thick paper, regular paper and, finally, tissue paper.

Like any other skill, cutting precisely takes practice. While they do get to practice at school, it is important that they have plenty of practice at home too so give them plenty of opportunity.

If your child is having a great deal of difficulty, her hands may not be strong enough. Help her build her hand muscles by using tongs to pick up small objects or by manipulating playdough. These are fun activities that won't feel like work to her.

to independence. Begin by letting your child do for himself what he is capable of doing. This may take more time than you would like, but she can dress herself (or at least partially) and can begin brushing her teeth by herself. Doing so fosters a sense of capability. Likewise, giving your child jobs to do in the house also fosters capability. A 2 year old can

help prepare his snack for school, help set the dinner table and assist in washing windows. Obviously, as your child gets older he will be able to do more complex tasks.

Finally, give your child choices when appropriate. Let him choose between two different snacks or let her choose an outfit for herself (though you may have to

steer her to weather appropriate options). Or, let your child weigh in on a choice of books for bedtime reading.

If you have a caregiver for your child, it is important for you both to be on the same page so that your efforts will be reinforced. Before you know it, your child will be on the (long) road to independence.

*Get your preschooler involved in Thanksgiving. Let him/her make the centerpiece, help set the table, bake the dessert, say the prayer before the meal, or share what he/she knows about Thanksgiving with the adults at the meal. It will make the holiday meaningful to him/her and to you.*

## Speech & Language Screenings Dec. 4 & 5

Are you concerned about your child's speech or language development? If so, this is the perfect opportunity to have your child screened by profession-

als from the Speech and Language Experience.

If you think that you would like your child to participate in this screening, please raise the issue with your

child's teacher. You will be required to sign a consent form, but the screening is paid for by the preschool. Details will come home in the next few weeks.

## Thanksgiving Feast on November 20

The 3 year old and pre-K classes will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Monday, November 20 with a feast attended by Pilgrims (the 3's classes) and Native Americans (the pre-K classes). The attendees will have the chance to sample the ever traditional Thanksgiving offerings of turkey, muffins,

cheese cubes and dried cranberries. And like the original Thanksgiving Feast--wink, wink—it will be concluded with the eating of decorated iced cookies. The important thing that they may learn is that the meal is a time to celebrate and be thankful with their (preschool) family.



Pilgrims and Native Americans at a previous feast

# Registration 2018-19 Preview

I know. I know. You're thinking, "What???" This year just started. Why are you talking about next year?" I'm looking ahead to next year because registration for next year will be done differently than what we have done in previous years.

As always you are guaranteed a space in the preschool for your

child and for any siblings. However, in past years parents would line up outside the preschool office to register on a first come, first served basis. This year, however, you will queue through the parent portal. You will register online at a certain day and time. As you complete your registration, it will go into a digital queue. We will accept the registrations in

the order in which they are put into the queue. So, you are in a line, but you can do this from the comfort of your own home. We will do this online registration both for returning students and for siblings.

More information will be coming over the next several months.

## Developmental Screenings

Now is the time to complete your child's developmental screening which must be completed by December 11. Just go to <https://www.asqonline.com/>

family/aad64b to take the 15 minutes to complete the screening. If there are any issues of concern that arise from the screening, then your child's teacher and I will

contact you for a meeting or conversation. At that time we can recommend activities to support your child's growth or a referral to a professional if warranted.



Cute M & M's from the Buntings Class



The Eagles class as super silly spiders

# Kindergarten Round Up



Visit the Preschool's Facebook page to see some cute pictures of your children and catch up on important activities and upcoming events.

## Potomac Pizza

Gather your friends and family and head to Potomac Pizza on the evening of Wednesday, November 8th between 4 and 9pm for dine in or carry out to enjoy some fellowship and pizza. Mention that you are from CCUMC Preschool and 20% of your purchase price will go back to the Preschool. It's a great way to support our school and, more importantly, not have to cook supper!!

On Monday, December 4 representatives from area private and public schools will be at the Preschool to answer parents' questions and to present information about their schools. Participants include Rosemary Hills Elementary School, Primary Day School, National Presbyterian School, Washington Episcopal School, St. Patrick's School, Grace Episcopal School, Stoneridge, and Blessed Sacrament. The

panel will begin at 9:30am and is open to all parents regardless of their child's age. This is a great time for you to tackle all of those school visits without actually having to go to them all. The session will last approximately 60-90 minutes. Join us in the Wesley Room for this informational event.

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